

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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Georges Braque's Guitar and Bottle of Marc on a Table of 1930 has been acquired by the Cleveland Museum of Art, Museum Director Sherman E. Lee announced today (September 9, 1975).

The painting, an oil and sand on canvas, is a large, colorful still life composition conceived in terms of the flat, unmodeled planes of cubism. Here, a guitar, sheet of music, pair of apples, and bottle have been arranged atop a wooden table with curved legs in full view. Masterfully juxtaposed with these elements are architectural details of the setting: fragments of patterned wallpaper, a textured rug, a wood grained wainscoting.

The painting's colors are light and subtle -- a muted red, blue, and yellow set against a range of grays, tan and ochre -- counterpointed with black and white. Sand in the pigment gives the entire surface a rich texture, like stucco.

"In Guitar and Bottle of Marc on a Table," Dr. Lee says, "while Braque continues to work in the cubist idiom, his handling of form is more relaxed than in his early cubist paintings. His colors are brighter, and his experimentation bolder."

"It is a beautiful picture by one of the great masters of 20th century art," Dr. Lee continues, "and adds an important dimension to our collection of cubist paintings."

(more)

Guitar and Bottle of Marc on a Table is one of a sequence of heroic-scale still-life paintings Braque began to develop in 1918 which are known collectively as "guéridons" for their frequent depiction of a pedestal table as the support for the still life arrangement. Others from this important period of 1928-1932 and now in public collections include The Table of 1928 in the Museum of Modern Art and The Round Table of 1929 in the Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.

Prior to its acquisition by the Cleveland Museum from Paul Rosenberg and Co., the painting had been in the Rosenberg family collection. The work was acquired by Paul Rosenberg directly from the artist, and was first exhibited in 1930 in his Paris gallery.

Subsequently, the painting has been widely published and exhibited, most recently in the 1972 exhibition, Braque: The Great Years, at the Art Institute of Chicago, and in the 1973 exhibition, Georges Braque, at the Orangerie in Paris.

It previously was seen in Cleveland in 1949 in the first large American retrospective of Braque's work organized by the Museum of Modern Art in cooperation with the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Guitar and Bottle of Marc on a Table has been installed in the Museum's second floor galleries devoted to modern paintings and sculpture, and goes on view today.

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For additional information or photographs, please contact Frances Stamper, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; (216) 421-7340.